

Name _____

Narrowing a Topic

Topic requirements: student interest, fits theme, available resources, changed history (enough time has passed that you can evaluate its short- and long-term impact.)



Answering these questions may guide you to a History Day topic:

1. What is the theme for National History Day this year?
2. What does this theme mean to me? How do I define it?
3. What are my personal interests, favorite time period, historical figure or event, geographical region? What are my hobbies? Sports, music, dance, reading, art?
4. Is there a state or local history topic that fits my interest?
5. If I choose a local topic, what research sources are available to me? Local libraries, online resources, universities?
6. What national or world history topics fit my interest?
7. What research sources are available to me if I choose a national or world history topic?
8. What will my preliminary topic be (I know this will change and needs to be more narrow, but this is a good start)?
9. Does my preliminary topic fit the theme? Have I asked my teacher, parents, State History Day coordinator or other mentor? Can I explain how it fits the theme?

10. Is my topic broad enough to show impact and change over time, but focused enough to accomplish great analysis?
11. Do I have enough time to complete research on this topic?
12. Did my topic's legacy change history? If so, how?